

DI-MFR

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14 June 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing on Sri Lanka for the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs and the Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Relations of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

1. On 14 June 1984 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 2172 Rayburn House Office Building representatives from CIA and INR/State Department briefed the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs and the Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Relations of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on the current situation in Sri Lanka. A transcript was taken. ☐

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2. The briefing was chaired by Rep. Gus Yatron (D., PA). Also attending were:

Benjamin Gilman (R., PA)  
Mel Levine (D., CA)  
Stephen Solarz (D., NY)  
Joel Pritchard (R., WA)

CIA briefers were ☐ Chief, South Asia Division, Office of Near East/South Asian Analysis, and analysts ☐. State/INR was represented by George Harris and Mike Malinowski. ☐

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3. The briefing followed the format of oral formal statements followed by impromptu responses to questions raised by the Members. The issues addressed are included in the Committee's letter of 22 May 1984 (attached). CIA and INR divided responsibility for the responses. On 12 June 1984 CIA's testimony was forwarded to the Committee as

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instructed (attached). Additional questions asked by the Members at the briefing related to the number of Tamils killed in recent Singhalese-Tamil fighting, the role India has played in the conflict, charges that the Sri Lankan government is guilty of human rights violations against the Tamil minority, possible connections between Tamil terrorists and terrorists in other countries, and the outlook for a political settlement that would satisfy both the Singhalese and Tamil inhabitants. Lastly, there was a discussion of US security interests in the region and the extent of US aid to President Jayawardene's government. Chairman Yatron expressed appreciation for the briefing, and the session was closed without any follow-up requests.

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